

REMARKS

The present application was filed on March 19, 1999 with claims 1-22. Claims 9 and 19 were canceled in a prior amendment. Claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20-22 were pending in an appeal filed August 28, 2002.

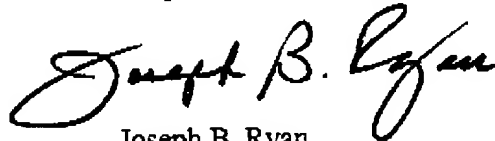
In a Decision on Appeal dated September 9, 2004, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 10-12, 18 and 20-22, but reversed the rejection of claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 16 and 17. Claims 5 and 15 had been indicated as allowable prior to the appeal.

Accordingly, in this amendment, Applicants amend the claims to rewrite the allowable dependent claims in independent form. Independent claims 1 and 11 have been canceled, the dependencies of other claims have been adjusted accordingly, and independent claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the limitation found in dependent claims 3 and 13.

Claims 2-8, 10, 12-18 and 20-22 as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance.

If there are any outstanding issues remaining, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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